

August-September 2011
Brightwood School Newsletter

1701 Brightwood Street
Monterey Park, CA 91754

Phone: (626) 308-2404 FAX: (626) 308-2407

Principal: Amy Tambara

Assistant Principal: Florence Goh

Welcome to the
2011-2012 School Year

We are all looking forward to a productive and enjoyable year.

I am pleased to welcome the following to the Brightwood staff:

- Mrs. Rachael Nicoll, Instructional Specialist
- Mrs. Pat Estrada, kinder teacher
- Mrs. Jane Aita, Library Aide

We are pleased to have Ms. Florence Goh as our Assistant Principal.

Medication for Students at School

Procedures have been established for medication brought to school. Only medication prescribed by the pupil's physician as necessary to take during school hours may be brought to school. A "Physician's Recommendation for Medication" form must be completed with the school nurse before medication may be given. This form also needs to be filled out for over-the-counter medication such as cough drops and eye drops. Students should not carry any such medication.

Requesting Homework When
Children Are Absent

Parents may request homework for children who are absent by notifying the office by 9:00 a.m. The request will be given to the teacher(s). The assignments may be picked up at the office after school.

Back to School Night

Parents are encouraged to attend Back to School Night. This is an opportunity to learn about your child's instructional program and grade level activities.

Grades K-4: Oct. 5, 2011
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Grades 5-8: September 28, 2011
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Increase of Price for Lunch and Milk

Lunch is now \$2.25 and milk is \$.40.

Visiting the School

The Alhambra Unified School District has procedures for admitting and monitoring visitors to a school site. (Please refer to the AUSD Parent and Student Handbook p. 49.) Visitors are required to come to the office and provide a picture ID. Visitors will be given a visitor's pass to be worn in a visible area on the left upper side of their chest.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Deadline for Free/Reduced
Meal Applications

Please submit a 2011-2012 Free/Reduced meal application if you have not already done so. A new application must be turned in every year in order for your child to qualify for free or reduced meals. It takes approximately 10 workdays to process an application from the day it is received in the Food & Nutrition Services office. After October 11, 2011 we will no longer honor last year's eligibility status.

Brightwood Valet Drop-Off Program

Brightwood School will continue to implement the Valet Drop-Off Program in front of the school on Brightwood Street and on Hillside Street in the mornings. This program makes dropping students off in the morning faster, safer, and more organized. Just a few reminders:

- Have your children ready to exit the car with their backpacks/supplies.
- Have your children exit your car onto the sidewalk, not the street.
- Please do not park, drop-off or pick-up children in the staff parking lot.

We would like some parent volunteers to help with the Valet Drop-off on Brightwood Street from 7:15-8:00 a.m. Please contact Ms. Goh, Assistant Principal, if you are interested.

Homework Calendar for Grades 4-8

A Homework Calendar may be purchased from your child's teacher. The cost is \$3.50. Please have your child bring the exact amount.

October 2011

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Parent – Teacher Conferences

This is an opportunity to meet and discuss your child's progress. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on

October 28, 31, November 1, 2, 4.

These are also minimum days.

Picture Days

Grades K-3 Oct. 12

Grades 4-8 Oct. 11

Picture Day will be a free-dress (non-uniform) day. Please remember to follow the District Dress Standards.

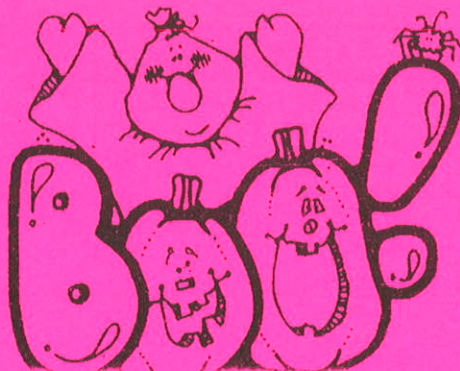
Safety

Safety is one of our primary concerns at Brightwood School. Please discuss the following with your child(ren):

- Decide on the safest and most direct route between home and school
- Cross the street at crosswalks.
- Do not talk with or accept things from strangers
- Students should walk to and from school with others
- Run to the nearest safe place to get help (neighbor's house, school, store, etc.)
- Report an incident to an adult as soon as possible

Traveling Students

The Elementary Independent Study Program is available to students who will be out of school for 5 days or more because they will be on a trip. Please notify the school office a week or more in advance of the student's absence so that a work packet can be prepared for the student.



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6:30-8:00 p.m.

K-6 Strategic Teaming

Strategic Teaming is a process by which we assess our students and then place them in a class within their grade level in a specific subject area for a portion of the school day. Each child is then taught and supported at their instructional level and advanced accordingly. Through Strategic Teaming, we can help all students in meeting their full potential.

This year, each Kindergarten - 6th grade student was placed in a Strategic Teaming class for one period each day for reading instruction that began on September 26. In addition to their teaming time, students will be given standards-based Language Arts instruction in their homerooms.

Does Your Child Have a Fever?

A child should stay home from school when the child has a fever of 100°F or above. A student may return to school after 24 hours without a fever. The use of medication to reduce fever is not considered fever free.

Homework Calendar for Grades 4-8

A Homework Calendar is a good tool for your child to record daily assignments. Homework Calendars may be purchased from the office. The cost is \$3.50. Please bring the exact amount.

November 2011

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Project RED

Project RED (Read Each Day) is Brightwood's reading incentive program for grades K-5. The goal is for K-2 students to read at least 15 minutes at home daily and for grades 3-5 students to read at least 20 minutes. Parents help their children maintain the reading logs nightly for the month by signing the calendar. At the end of each month your child's teacher collects the log. During an assembly held the following month, two reading logs are drawn from each class. The winners select a book from the available selection. Please have your K-5 children participate in Project RED. The more a child reads, the better reader he/she will become.

Daylight Saving Time

Remember to change your clocks on Sunday, November 6. Clocks fall back from 2:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety

Please take the time to advise your children to cross only in the crosswalks. They should also not cross in the middle of the street nor walk out into the street between parked cars. In the past, children have been injured or killed by crossing the street illegally. Also be courteous and respectful of those that live across from our school by not blocking or parking in front of their driveways. The Monterey Park Police are aware of these situations and are patrolling around Brightwood School regularly. They may cite those who do not obey the law.

Annual Title I Parent Meeting

Our Annual Title I Parent Meeting will be held on November 14, 2011 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the cafetorium. All parents are invited to attend. The following information will be presented:

- Title I Legislations/No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
- District/State Standards
- Assessment Tools
- Parent Partnership

**Developmental Assets
Parent Workshops**

We are excited about offering the Developmental Assets parent workshops at Brightwood again this year. The goal is to provide parents with information, strategies, and skills to build specific assets with their children. Mrs. Oller, 6th grade teacher, and Ms. Goh, Assistant Principal, are the presenters for the sessions. The sessions will be held from 6-8 p.m. The first session was held on Oct. 19. Please join us on Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, and 16.

**Reminder – Student Holidays
November 28, 2011
January 9, 2012**

These two days will be student holidays. Students do not attend school on these days. The teachers will be involved in professional development.



December 2011

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Good Attendance

Good school attendance affects students in several ways. Coming to school every day and on time will improve your child's academic performance. Good daily school attendance is also directly related to healthy emotional growth. Achieving and accomplishing things in school leads to feeling good about one's self.

We understand that there are days when attendance is difficult, such as when the child is ill or there is a family emergency. But please keep those days to a minimum. Help your child succeed academically and emotionally. Make sure he/she is in school and on time every day. It is also important for your child(ren) to stay at school for the full day and not be checked out early. Please send an absence note when your child returns to school or call the school office informing us of the reason for the absence.

Our goal is a 96% or higher attendance rate. Please help us meet our goal.

Lost Clothing

If your child has lost clothing at school, please check the box outside of the cafeteria (by the lunch benches).

Mark Student's Personal Items

We suggest that the student's name is written on or attached to his/her personal items such as, jackets, lunch boxes, musical instrument, ball, etc. This will help the student find the lost item.

Uniform Tops Reminder

Please remind your child(ren) that uniform tops must be navy blue, white or powder/light blue. If one top is worn over another top, they all should be the colors listed. All shirts and blouses must also have collars and sleeves

Read, Read, Read

Please have your child read on vacation days as well as on school days. The continuous practice will help your child improve his/her reading skills.

No Permanent Markers at School

Students may not have permanent markers at school. Permanent markers will be confiscated from students. This will help eliminate graffiti and keep our school property clean.

Dates to Remember

December 2	Student Holiday
December 9	Report Cards go home
December 23	Minimum Day
Dec. 26-Jan. 6	Winter Vacation
January 9	Student Holiday
January 10	School reopens

